

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, 481A.90, and 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. The amendment increases the quota for bobcats from 350 to 450 and increases the quota for river otters from 650 to 850. Both populations appear capable of sustaining the increased harvest.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on May 2, 2012, as **ARC 0115C**. A public hearing was held on May 23, 2012. Three comments were received from the public and all supported the proposed change. No changes were made from the Notice.

Increasing the quota for bobcats and river otters will have a positive jobs impact on the state by increasing overall trapping activity. Because of the raised quotas, trappers have a better opportunity to actually take a bobcat or otter before the quotas are filled. This means increased business for the private sector in the following areas: hunting and trapping gear and other related equipment, and taxidermy work. It could also lead to increased business for restaurants, hotels, and gas stations as people move around the state participating in the sport.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

This amendment will become effective on August 15, 2012.

The following amendment is adopted.

Amend subrule 108.7(3) as follows:

**108.7(3) Quotas and seasonal bag limit.**

*a. Seasonal bag limit.* The seasonal bag limit is 3 river otters and 1 bobcat per person.

*b. Quotas.* The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is ~~650~~ 850 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~350~~ 450 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches the quota. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches the quota. Trappers shall be allowed a grace period that ends on midnight of the day after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper’s personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 7/11/12.